

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Intelligence Community Staff

DCI/ICS 82-3807

20 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[REDACTED]

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Special Assistant for Education and Training,
Assistant Vice Directorate for Attaches and Training,
Defense Intelligence Agency

FROM:

[REDACTED]

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Chairman, Ad Hoc Task Force on the Linguist Problem

SUBJECT:

DIA Language and Area Studies Program

Walt

Members of the Intelligence Community Staff have read with great interest the implementation plan for the DIA Language and Area Studies Program (U-745/AT-SA) which you sent me on 25 November 1981. As you know, I had, in response to your request for comments by 9 December, passed on by telephone to [REDACTED] the IC Staff opinion that your program neither duplicated nor ran counter to any other programs in the Community of which this Staff was aware. In the past two weeks, members of the IC Staff representing the offices of Assessment and Evaluation (OA&E), Planning (OP), Community Coordination (OCC), HUMINT Collection (OHC) and, Program and Budget Coordination (OPBC) have reviewed your program and implementation plan again. The following represents their collective views:

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a. We particularly welcome the emphasis which your program gives to "low-density" languages used in areas of potential instability in the Third World. Concentration on this area would support, among others, Issue 6 (Comprehensive, Worldwide Intelligence Foundation: Data Base and Analytical Capabilities); Issue 11 (Surge Capability); and Issue 12 (Manpower, Talent and Productivity), identified as Intelligence Challenges in 1985-1990 in the "1985 Intelligence Capabilities Study."

b. We also welcome the "establishment of a central, standardized DoD file from which individuals with critical language and area skills and knowledge can be quickly identified and located." If, as we expect, the Ad Hoc Task Force on the Linguist Problem is reconstituted as the Intelligence Community Foreign Language Training Committee, such a DoD file would be a vital link in a Community-wide register of individuals with critical language and area skills.

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c. Of particular interest is your Paragraph 13 (Page 25), "Cooperation Within the Intelligence Community." Coordination of the training of Community members in low-density languages is absolutely essential if valuable resources are to be utilized to the maximum degree. Coordination of proposed external research on Third World areas will also prevent duplication of effort and husbanding of scarce resources. As you know, various elements of the Community have adopted, if only temporarily, bonus and incentive programs to encourage the retention and further development of individuals with expertise in Third World areas with low-density languages. Opinions as to the efficacy of such programs, including their management and coordination, vary and we would hope that the new Intelligence Community Foreign Language Training Committee, as one of its first tasks, will address these important issues.



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